

Claim 10, line 2, after "contacting step", change "(c)" to --(b)--; and
line 3, delete "a probe or".

Please add the following new claim 23:

--23. Process according to Claim 5, wherein the LCST of the polymer is between 30 and 40°C.--

REMARKS

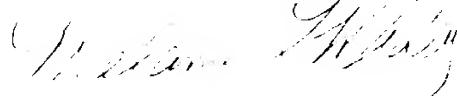
Claims 1-3 and 5-23 are pending. Claim 4 is canceled and claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 are amended; and claim 23 is added herein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in better condition for allowance and/or appeal (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) do not add any new claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. The amendments merely correct an antecedent basis error in claim 10 and correct obvious typographical errors in claims 1, 3 and 10. In addition, claim 4 is being canceled because the subject matter thereof was previously incorporated into claim 3. Furthermore, the "preferably" clause of claim 5 has been deleted from claim 5 and added to new claim 23 in accordance with U.S. practice. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they were only noticed while preparing the Appeal Brief.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in better condition for allowance and/or appeal. Therefore, favorable consideration and prompt entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance and/or appeal, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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